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Maine Law Enforcement Agencies Receive School Safety Grants

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced today that the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) recently awarded \$14.8 million in grants to 152 local law enforcement agencies to enhance school safety in 36 states, including Maine. The grants were awarded through COPS Secure Our Schools program, which provides funds to improve security at schools and on school grounds.

The Secure Our Schools program will provide up to 50 percent of the total cost for municipalities to install metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other equipment to help deter crime. The grants can also be used to pay half of the cost of security assessments, security training, and other measures that will provide a significant improvement in security.

Secure Our Schools is one of several COPS initiatives to enhance school safety. COPS has provided nearly \$930 million to state and local law enforcement agencies to hire and train more than 6,300 school resource officers. COPS also funds school safety training, and has published several technical assistance guides to help law enforcement agencies effectively address specific school and youth violence issues.

United States Attorney Silsby said that \$365,567 in school safety grants was awarded in Maine to police departments in Auburn, Biddeford, Cumberland, North Berwick, South Portland and Wells, in addition to the York County Sheriff's Office.

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